



RHQ SCOTS Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

October 2020

Congratulations to the Warrant Officer Class Ones who were successful on the Late Entry Commissioning Board

WO1 Carlisle - RSM 7 SCOTS
WO1 Gibson - WO1 DIO West
WO1 Grisdale - The Sovereign's Piper
WO1 McFadden - GSM Edinburgh Castle
WO1 McNally - RSM 2 SCOTS
WO1 Parker - RSM 6 SCOTS
WO1 Smith - RSM IBS Brecon
WO1 Taylor - RSM 4 SCOTS



1 SCOTS

In September, A Coy completed Ex SPARTAN SHIELD in Brecon. The exercise, designed to rehearse the fundamentals, began by honing the basic skills. This included a long and demanding night-time navigation exercise. Following this there was a rigorous succession of reconnaissance actions with ambushes and fighting patrols; this included troops inserting via Puma and Chinook helicopters into offensive operations. Live-fire tactical training followed, during which the tactics rehearsed previously were employed in realistic and challenging scenarios.



B Coy conducted an advanced range package which refined close-quarter battle skills using the pistol. In addition the teams developed their marksmanship with foreign weapons. Familiarity with foreign weapons is crucial to training forces in West Africa. During the exercise and as part of their ongoing development JNCOs were put through their paces in planning and estimate training - overlooking complex terrain with a challenging scenario, they each planned and briefed at company level offensive operations in preparation for teaching these skills to Partner Forces.



C Coy deployed on Ex MOBILE CHARLIE in Northern Ireland. This dynamic training package challenged the teams in the urban environment and rehearsed the vehicle contact drills that form an essential force protection measure on operations. Urban close-quarter battle skills were put to the test during force-on-force competitions using marker rounds. C Coy then rehearsed its reconnaissance skills by conducting observation-posts in a dynamic urban scenario. The Coy is now preparing to resume operations in West Africa over the coming months.

2 SCOTS

2 SCOTS recently found themselves far from home in Stanford Training Area, Norfolk in preparation for deployment to Kabul on Op TORAL. The Mission Rehearsal Exercise is designed to practice everything they are likely to face on operations; from camp daily routine, patrols, incident response, attacks or how to respond to casualties. They were also learning how to navigate extremely challenging terrain, using the Foxhound Armoured Fighting Vehicle in advance of their deployment.



3 SCOTS

3 SCOTS conducted a live firing exercises in Warcop, Barry Buddon and Salisbury Plain as well as maximising the use of the ranges in Fort George. They delivered training using the full spectrum of weapon systems.

Due to wider Army activity slowing dramatically over the last few months, 3 SCOTS have benefitted from a much more stable training audience than normal and maximised the opportunities this has presented. As a result, the battalion remains at a very high readiness of training and with a level of cohesion that they frequently struggle to maintain.



All readiness training the 3 SCOTS has conducted throughout the year was put to the test by 51X during Ex AGILE LION - a full Readiness Verification Exercise (RVE). After receiving the formal EXERCISE activation order from 51X the battalion were formally recalled and stood -up in line with the 5-day notice period (though they were ready to roll out the door in 48hrs). On G+4 (four days after activation) the Comd 51X and an extensive team arrived at Fort George to check all branches of the unit This was a hugely successful visit, with learning points for both the battalion and Brigade staff.



The following day the entire battalion began to travel almost 300 miles south to West Freugh Camp in Galloway with over 80 vehicles covering the distance. Following some vehicle rehabilitation and drivers' rest, the companies

then deployed to the hills to conduct company-level training on Ex GALLOWAY HACKLE.

During this period 3 SCOTS were visited by both the Brigade and Divisional Commanders, with A Coy put through their paces in a chemical attack scenario. The BHQ and vital A1 echelon all deployed into the field for their first full runouts since Ex WESSEX STORM last year. Meanwhile, real life support in West Freugh was maintained under the watchful eye of the QM and his A2 team - full marks to our chefs for some outstanding meals as the rest of battalion passed through.

4 SCOTS

A Coy, have been based in HQRS (Headquarters Resolute Support) in KABUL and have been supporting Afghan partners in the city. Although they spent the majority of their time in camp they helped out with the HQRS COVID response and spent time building bonds with other nations.



There was plenty time for PT in the outdoor gym, with many of the company using the opportunity for 'Operation Let's Get Massive'. The limited sports facilities were well used with innovative ways around social-distancing restrictions such as 2 touch football and football tennis.

A particular highlight was hosting a shooting competition to mark Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday. Meticulously planned to abide by COVID restrictions by Coy 2IC Austen Thorne (aided by his wise tutor Lt Morrison), the shoot aimed to involve the whole British contingent on camp in a march and shoot event. In teams of three, the event consisted of a best effort lap round camp followed by two minutes to don body armour and helmet and get onto the range for a pistol shoot at various distances in different positions. The event proved a massive success with some great shooting from the Jocks - it led to Americans and Australians asking to take part. Although beaten by the Aussies for the best shot, the team of LCpl Bankier, Hldr Beattie and Hldr Ferguson managed to get the overall win for the Grenadiers.



Prizes were awarded by Lt Gen Hill and he thanked the Company for their hard work in keeping morale high round camp.



Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming

September was a busy period for the ASBM&HD with the end of one All Arms Class 3 course and the start of a new Class 3 course. Class 20/01 finished their time in Edinburgh having started the course online with training being delivered via that means for the first 14 weeks. Shortly after the end of the lockdown the students arrived at the school to finish the course in the classroom. The course ending was marked with a prize-giving parade in Redford barracks.



Many lessons were learned by the instructors during the difficult lockdown period that have continued onto the new course. Blended learning is being utilised with each class receiving lessons in the classroom and online. Class 20/02 is the largest seen at the ASBM&HD for some time which will have a positive effect on the future of Army piping at unit level. 29 Pipers and 17 Drummers have started the course and will hopefully pass out in March 2021.



Balaklava Company, 5 SCOTS

BKA Coy continued to support Op RESCRIPT by providing an increasing number of Mobile Testing Units (MTUs) across Scotland. The Coy subsequently handed over the MTUs to the Scottish Ambulance Service at the end of August. Teams from 5, 6 and 7 SCOTS helped to train and advise the Scottish Ambulance Service in the weeks leading up to the handover.

Following the successful handover of the MTUs, BKA Coy took a late summer leave. Since returning from leave the Coy have been focusing on MATTs, fitness and low-level training. This has included navigation exercises on Castlelaw ranges. The Coy are now starting to conduct preparation for LFTT ranges later this year.

Pte Fergus represented the Infantry in the Angling Army Scottish Open in September. The competition took place at Lake of Menteith and anglers from across the Army took part. Pte Fergus helped the Infantry team to reach 2nd place.



6 SCOTS

6 SCOTS have reservists that remain mobilised as part of 2 SCOTS for Op TORAL and also individuals are supporting various training activities across the Army.

Late August saw a return to field training for the Bn, with a weekend in Catterick split between OBUA lessons in Whinny Hill. Attendance was high and the weekend included a visit from Commander 4X who was impressed with the Jocks.

In September, the Bn was back up to Barrybuddon for the 6 SCOTS Skill at Arms Meet (SAAM). The event saw some good shooting, with the eventual champion company trophy going to the team from C Coy under 2Lt Wallace and the champion shot was Pte McAulay from Galashiels Platoon in A Coy.

Unit outreach met the 21st Century with a virtual insight night streamed over Zoom! The event was a success with good numbers of potential recruits dialling in to learn about 6 SCOTS. They got to see soldiers from all parts of the Bn presenting short pieces on what they were doing on that training night and about their experience as a reservist.



7 SCOTS

The main event for the month was the 7 SCOTS Patrol Exercise which was hosted in the Perthshire village of Dunkeld. Over 50 Reserve and Regular 7 SCOTS soldiers deployed to the picturesque Athol Estates to test their leadership and low-level skills.

This exercise marked the return to physical training for 7 SCOTS after a long period of virtual and online learning due to COVID restrictions. Despite the extra measures that were put in place, including capping the attendance numbers to ensure the safety of soldiers and the public, the troops remained eager to prove their abilities. The aim of the exercise was to test the soldier's ability to navigate, communicate and function whilst dealing with a live enemy force operating in unknown ground. Over the demanding twenty kilometre route, each Section was exposed to a number of challenges, each with its own unique



SCOTS Band

The band hosted 12-year-old Leila McPhate at Redford Barracks. Leila, a school student from Larbert High School in Stenhousemuir, was presented with a professional recording made by musicians from the Countess of Wessex's String Orchestra of her rap song inspired by the Windrush generation. Leila wrote 'The World Is A Dark Place' as her entry for Never Such Innocence, an international arts competition which is supported to give children and young people a voice on conflict.



Throughout September the band has been getting to grips with increased spacings and a new counter-march procedure in marching bands to stay in line with CAMUS COVID-19 precautions. Alongside changes outside, inside in the practice room the bands ensembles have been working hard to raise the standard of their product and to introduce new capabilities to their already vast range of musical output. Our new additions include but aren't limited to a Jazz ensemble, a Tuba Quartet, and a host of Solo Pianists.



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Notices:

- *Regimental Jumpers—available at £75 + postage*
- *Regimental Tweed—available at £35 per metre + postage*
- *Regimental Ties—available at £16 + postage*

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